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From the Reference Desk

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takes me a whole year of looking before I will make the purchase but it is worth the effort and is always a great present to myself.

"I don't think of my collection as a significant cultural record, but it is certainly a record of the births and other events that mean a great deal to me and my family. With the births of grandchildren I still purchase special quilts for those overnight sleepovers. There is nothing more soothing than to see a little one all snuggled up in a quilt that was made with so much handwork, time, and love. I loved to watch my kids while they slept under the quilts; they always seemed so peaceful and I still see the same with T and Colby.

"In 100 years, I hope the quilts will be passed down to my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and on and on. Till the threads are bare and there are just scraps left."

There are scholars, of course, who think quilts are very significant cultural, albeit personal, records, along with tapestries, cross-stitch, and embroidery. As Peg intimates, a quilt can evoke a different era or even a different person; you can almost feel another set of hands tucking the child in and keeping him safe and warm.

I collected a quilt from my neighbor's trash pile this morning. 

against the grain people profile

Circulation Services Director, Williamsburg Regional Library
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Peg Bradshaw

BORN & LIVED: Binghamton, New York, Lived in Chautauqua, New York, Anaheim Hills, California, Walnut Hills, California, Salinas, California ...settled in Williamsburg, VA.

EARLY LIFE: Attended Catholic schools my whole school life. Member of **Girl Scouts, CYO, Young Womens Catholic Association.**

FAMILY: Married and Divorced. Four Children: **Matthew** (married to **Amanda**) **Elizabeth** (married to **Jason** with two sons **Tristan** and **Colby**), **Nolan** (Senior at **Virginia Commonwealth University**) and **Lauren** (Sophomore at **VCU**).

EDUCATION: Graduated from **Catholic Central High School**, Binghamton, NY.

FIRST JOB: Long distance operator for **Bell Telephone**, Binghamton, NY... before the automated system, used the old cord boards.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I was liaison for the renovation and building project of the Williamsburg library which opened doors for me to pursue other projects and other committees through **ALA** in the **LAMA** division.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Spend time with my kids and especially with my grandsons. Travel. Veg on the beach.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *A Gift from the Sea, Charlotte's Web, A Light in the Attic, The McDuff Stories, Max and Ruby* ... anything by **Rosemary Wells**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: People with no common sense, no sense of humor and being unwilling to laugh at themselves.

PHILOSOPHY: One day at a time and laugh everyday.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: The completion of the renovation project and coming in under budget.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: To maintain my sense of humor and be able to keep up with my grandsons the way I do now.

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

It has taken over 30 years but the classic source *Historical Statistics of the United States* has been fully updated and expanded. Originally published by the **US Bureau of the Census**, the new *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition* (2006, 0521817919, \$825) has just been released by **Cambridge University Press**. Available in print (and soon to be online), it is a stunning achievement providing a multifaceted statistical profile of American history that will be valued by students, scholars, and researchers of all types.

Each of the five volumes in the set deals with a broad, but distinct category. Volume one treats population with chapters on characteristics, vital statistics, internal and international migration, families and households, and cohort groups (those born at about the same time). There is an individual chapter on American Indians rounding out the volume. The second volume

concentrates on work and welfare and lists statistics covering labor, education, health, economic inequality and poverty, social insurance and public assistance and nonprofit, voluntary and religious entities. The third volume treats various aspects of economic structure and performance ranging from business cycles, savings, capital, and wealth to science, technology, and productivity. Volume four deals with individual economic sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and communication, while the final volume covers topics related to governance (elections, etc.) and international relations. This last volume also contains chapters on Colonial Statistics and the Confederate States of America.

Each of the individual topic chapters contains an introductory essay that provide context. Along with the narrative there are useful timelines and graphs. Table arrangement is logi-

cal and understandable but in order to get their full import, readers should refer to the accompanying notes and list of sources whenever they are provided. And because of the multitude of sources and types of statistics employed, the appendices for each chapter are invaluable in explaining and defining specifics. Each chapter also has a worthwhile list of references. This set has a great deal to offer but to get the full benefit requires the time and patience to read the supporting materials. Librarians will do well to point this out to users, especially students less familiar with the demands of statistical research.

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There is an index replicated in each volume and it is generally useful. But because there is so much information here and the possibility exists to miss related statistics, the index could have benefited from "see also" references. For instance, in looking for figures on Mexican immigration one can locate relevant tables listed under Mexico - Immigration From. However, this is not the full story. Unless you think to look under the broader subject Immigration, you will miss related statistical tables listed under the subheading Border Control that contain statistics on deportation of Mexican Nationals. (One would assume that the search function in the online version allows for more direct linking between related statistics.)

Nonetheless, *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition* is a resource that academic libraries and larger public libraries can ill afford to be without. It is more than a collection of some 37,000 data series. This reference work is a result and a reflection of remarkable quantitative scholarship by numerous experts. It combines raw tabular data with explanations and definitions contained in chapter essays and appendices. This information, coupled with supporting bibliographies, produces a source of enduring value. It will serve as the standard for years to come.

Oxford University Press has also produced an important, but at the same time, very different work. The *Oxford Encyclopedia of Children's Literature* (2006, 0195146565, \$495) will cause grateful smiles from librarians, library school students and education majors studying children's literature.

While many of the entries here highlight children's literature in the United States and Great Britain, coverage is international and diverse with 37 other countries and regions treated. Specific topics range from Elves and Fairies to Electronic Media and from Book Design to Superheroes. In addition, numerous genres and literary types are included, along

with entries discussing hundreds of authors and illustrators, to produce a reference work with few, if any, serious content omissions.

Its alphabetical arrangement and topical and general indexes makes this encyclopedia accessible, as well as content rich. But use of more "see" references in the general index would also enhance this access. For example, there is no entry for homosexuality in the general index. However, there is an article on Gay and Lesbian Literature that can only be located if you look under that specific entry in the index. And another area that could use more attention in any future edition is the bibliographies. Not all entries have a list of further readings and many that do contain only one or two references. Helping to compensate is a selective bibliography of standard, general sources listed in the last volume. On a more positive note, black and white photos and illustrations help break up what is a dense and text rich set. There are also numerous lists of award winning titles, as well as a short directory of noteworthy children's literature collections that readers will find of use.

The *Oxford Encyclopedia of Children's Literature* will be most at home in academic collections. However, given that many lay readers will also find it valuable, larger public libraries will no doubt be drawn to it. While covering similar territory as the well received *International Companion Encyclopedia of Children's Literature* (Routledge, 2004, 0415290538, \$395), the 3,200 entries in this four-volume set offer a more traditional encyclopedic, accessible approach. Comprehensive collections will want to have both of these titles. Those interested in a one volume work for either reference or circulating collections should also consider the *Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature* (2005, 0826417787, \$29.95).

The Scribner imprint of Thomson Gale has also released a title that will strike a chord with both academic and public libraries. Edited by Stanley Wolpert, the *Encyclopedia of India* (2006, 0684313499, \$475) is a four-volume set that is distinctive in its comprehensive treatment of this ancient and complex country. A total of 580 articles by more than 200 scholars cover a diversity of topics. Numerous articles shed light on arts, geography, politics and government, economics, history, religion, educational institutions, finance and financial institutions, foreign relations, philosophy, science social relations, and the role of women. Subjects as diverse as Central Banking and the Caste System, Environmental Consciousness and Ethnic Conflict, and Sufism and Stock Markets are given equal billing. The set is both visually interesting, as well as attractive, with eight pages of color plates in each volume along with numerous black and

white photos and illustrations. Helping to provide access to the articles are a thematic outline of contents, "see also" references, and a good general index. Individual chronologies for India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka offer historic context and bibliographies for each entry provide leads to other sources. In addition, there is an annotated general bibliography of selected sources, as well as a glossary.

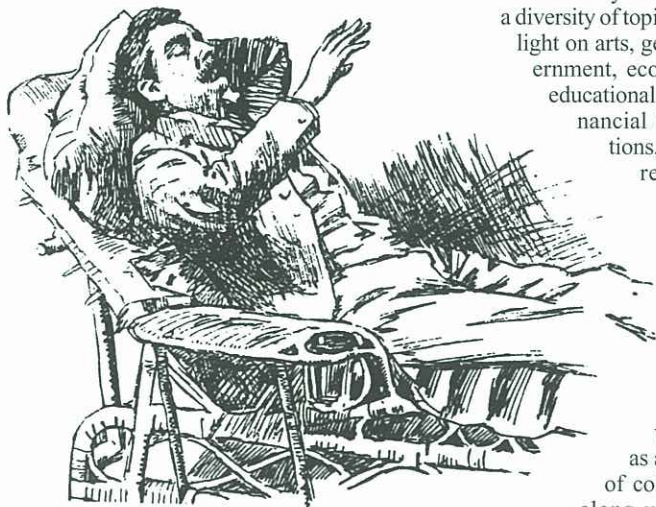
The *Encyclopedia of India* is a high quality set that meets a real need for a comprehensive reference work on this important and fascinating part of the world. Students, scholars and lay readers will turn to it for quick facts and solid explanations, as well as a starting place for more in-depth research. Its scholarly and thorough coverage teamed with the attractive, professional presentation will make this set popular in both academic and public libraries.

The *Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry* (2006, 031332381X, \$599.95) is another set that will command attention from a variety of libraries. Edited by Jeffrey Grey this five-volume encyclopedia contains more than 900 articles by close to 350 scholars. However, it is the comprehensive nature of the coverage that is most impressive. From the Colonial writing of Anne Bradstreet and Phillis Wheatley to articles discussing Digital poetry and Feminist Poetics, this *Encyclopedia* captures the development and diversity of American poetry and its poets. The influence of movements like the Black Mountain School and the San Francisco Renaissance, as well as genres like Performance and Slam Poetry are also chronicled. In addition, other articles explore the relationship of American poetry to other types of poetry ranging from Caribbean to Irish to Yiddish. Access to specifics is provided by a thorough index, an alphabetical list of all entries and lists of the pre 20th Century poets, as well as the 20th and 21st Century poets covered. In addition, there is a guide to topical entries grouped by subtopics. Cross referencing is provided by bold lettering within articles and there are selected lists of primary and secondary sources at the end of each entry.

Many of the individual poets here are covered in sources like Gale's multivolume *Dictionary of Literary Biography* and there is overlap in coverage with the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* (2004, 0195156536, \$495) in terms of literary movements, etc. However, there is no other set with the comprehensive, up-to-date focus on American poetry offered in these five volumes. Main and branch public libraries, as well as high school and undergraduate collections should give it serious consideration.

Librarians and lexicographers alike will be gratified to learn of a recent Routledge publication. The *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006, 0415212588, \$175) continues and expands the legacy of Eric Partridge, whose *Dictionary of*

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Slang and Unconventional English was published in eight editions stretching from 1937 until 1984. **Partridge's** emphasis was on the English of Great Britain and her dominions. The two-volume *New Partridge* covers this territory, as well as American slang. In fact, according to Editors **Tom Danzell** and **Terry Victor**, a criteria used in assembling the dictionary was to include words and phrases "used anywhere in the English speaking world." **Danzell** and **Victor** also focus their efforts on the 60 years since the end of World War II. Some 65,000 entries are included. And to their credit "no term is excluded because it might be considered offensive as a racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or any kind of slur." As such, this work attempts to honestly reflect the "cultural transformations" embodied by slang and unconventional English since 1945, a particular turbulent and change laden time. There is little doubt that some readers will be offended. But the words defined in this dictionary are used, and regardless of their offensive nature, they are part of modern culture. Each entry contains the headword or phrase, part of speech, definition, geographic location, date, examples of usage and their published sources. If a source is cited more than five times it is listed in the bibliography at the end of volume two.

The *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* will be seen by many librarians, both academic and public, as a standard source and a necessary purchase. Cognizant of the ever changing nature of slang and unconventional English, **Routledge** and the editors of the *New Partridge*, are soliciting contributions for future editions. There is a submission form along with information on how to contribute at <http://www.partridge-slang.com/contribute.html>. This leads to the obvious question as to if, and when, the *New Partridge* will be available electronically.

Sharpe Reference's Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History (2006, 0765680653, \$499) should be welcome by students of early American history. It is the first multivolume encyclopedia to tackle North American Colonial history since **Scribner's** landmark *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* published in 1993 (available used from **Amazon**). Edited by **James Climent**, this new set reflects the efforts of over 90 contributors and assesses the formative years of American history in its varied and numerous guises.

The *Encyclopedia* is divided into four major sections with the first being a collection of seven thematic essays that discuss "arts, culture, and intellectual life; economics, business, and labor; gender issues; military and diplomatic affairs; politics and government; race and ethnicity; and religion." This is followed by the alphabetical entries covering a diversity of topics ranging from Child Rearing to the Continental Congress; Puritanism to Prostitu-

tion; and from Slave Communities to the Sons of Liberty. There are also numerous biographical sketches and entries devoted to geography, health and medicine and the colonizing efforts of the various European powers including England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands. A major feature is the set of chronologies that make up the third section. These timelines relate to the seven introductory essays with an additional chronology on scientific and technological advances. In addition, there are chronologies related to the development of the original 13 British colonies and one each on the French and the Spanish colonies in North America and the Caribbean. The fourth and final section is a collection of 60 primary sources running the gamut from *Columbus's Letter Announcing His Discoveries in the New World* to the *Declaration of Independence*.

Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History is a solid contribution and a worthy addition to serious American history reference collections. While it does not replace **Scribner's Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies**, this new set does act to update and complement it and should garner interest from academic and public libraries.

School leadership and administration is a serious topic in education programs nationwide

and a new release from **Sage Publication's** focuses on its complexities. The *Encyclopedia of Educational Leadership and Administration* (2006, 0761930876, \$325) is two-volume set that offers practical and thorough coverage in more than 600 entries. Contents range from articles on administrative theory and models to biographies of those people having made a discernable impact on the field. There are articles on specific issues like Academic Freedom, Discipline in Schools and Privatization, as well as those on pragmatic concerns like Budgeting, Salary Models, and Licensure and Certification. Other articles cover concerns like school size and safety, tests and testing, and topics related to psychology and human development. The treatment is scholarly, but unaffected and direct. Standard added value features include article specific bibliographies, a topically arranged Reader's Guide, solid use of "see also" references, and a thorough general index.

The *Encyclopedia of Educational Leadership and Administration* is worthy of its subject. It will prove useful for factual definitions, as well as background information on numerous relevant issues. This set will have particular appeal in academic circles with both students and faculty finding it a handy, broad ranging treatment of an essential, multi-dimensional topic. Active practitioners may also want a copy on their shelves, or possibly accessible through their school libraries.

As is our habit this time of the year, we are providing some recent "Best of Reference" lists for your edification. Most, if not all, of the titles mentioned here are items that both reference and collection development librarians will want to ponder, hopefully together.

The RUSA Reference Sources Committee's Outstanding Reference Sources 2006

Chaired by **Matthew Wayman**, **Pennsylvania State University-Abington College Library**, **RUSA's Reference Sources Committee** has announced its 2006 list of Outstanding Reference Sources for small and medium-sized libraries. (Check out the May issue of *American Libraries* p. 40-43, for brief reviews and more information)

Americans at War: Society, Culture, and the Homefront. Edited by **John P. Resch**. Detroit: Macmillan, 2005. (ISBN: 002865806x) \$395.

American Heritage Science Dictionary. Houghton. 2005. (ISBN: 0618455043) \$19.95.

Black Women in America, 2nd ed., edited by **Darlene Clark Hines**. Oxford University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0195156773) \$325.

Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology: A Global Guide to Hidden Animals and Their Pursuers, **Michael Newton**. McFarland, 2005. (ISBN 0786420367) \$95.

Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film. Routledge, 2005. (ISBN: 1579584454) \$475.

Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature, **Emmanuel S. Nelson**. Greenwood, 2005. (ISBN: 031333059X) \$499.95.

Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Plants: Ethnopharmacology and its Applications, **Christian Rätsch**. Rochester, Vt.: Park Street Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0892819782) \$125.

Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature. Edited by **Bron Taylor**. Continuum International Publishing, 2005. (1843711389) \$395.

Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Photography. Routledge, 2005. (ISBN: 1579583938) \$395.

Encyclopedia of World War I: A Political, Social and Military History. Edited by **Spencer C. Tucker**. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2005. (ISBN: 1851094202) \$485.

Immigration and Asylum from 1900 to Present. Edited by **Matthew J. Gibnery** and **Randall Hansen**. ABC Clio, 2005. (ISBN: 15706077969) \$285.


Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States, **Suzanne Oboler** and **Deena J. Gonzalez**. Oxford University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0195156005) \$525.

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of the slaughterhouse itself and the different jobs in which people are engaged. Additional sections describe sexual abuse and prostitution, child labor practices, and then the rise of the Socialist Party in the US at that time. What is most amazing, **Johnson** tells that meat packing practices today, though improved over the last hundred years, still remain suspect from human rights, safety and sanitation points of view. Vegetarianism is sounding better and better.

At the end of each chapter, the reader is provided open-ended questions that could serve as topics for student papers or even for further reflection.

If this volume is any indication, teachers and librarians are given excellent background information to knowledgeably suggest and discuss this genre of literature. 

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The New York Public Library's Best of Reference 2006 list includes:

Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music. McNeil, W.K. Routledge, 2005. (ISBN: 0415941792) \$150.

The Greenwood Companion To Shakespeare: A Comprehensive Guide for Students. Rosenblum, Joseph. Greenwood Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0313327807) \$299.95.

The Oxford Companion to the Photograph. Lenman, Robin. Oxford University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0198662718) \$65.

100 Most Popular Genre Fiction Authors. Drew, Bernard. Libraries Unlimited Inc., 2005. (ISBN: 1591581265) \$65.

Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture. Davis, Edward. Routledge, 2005. (ISBN: 0415241294) \$210.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States. Oboler, Suzanne. Oxford University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 0195156005) \$525.

National Geographic Almanac of Geography. National Geographic Society, 2005. (ISBN: 079223877X) \$40.

The Encyclopedia of New York State. Eisenstadt, Peter. Syracuse University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 081560808X) \$95.

The Landmarks of New York: An Illustrated Record of the City's Historic Buildings. Diamonstein-Spielvogel, Barbaralee. Monacelli Press, 2005. (ISBN: 1580931545) \$65.

Plant. Marinelli, Janet. DK Publishing, 2005. (ISBN: 075660589X) \$50.


A Consumer's Guide to Laboratory Tests. Ricotta, Mary. Prometheus Books, 2005. (ISBN: 1591022479) \$21.

Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. Shelton, Dinah. Macmillan Library Reference, 2005. (ISBN: 0028658477) \$415.

Tobacco in History and Culture: An Encyclopedia. Goodman, Jordan. Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005. (ISBN: 0684314053) \$275.

The Encyclopedia of Politics: The Left and The Right. Carlisle, Rodney. Sage Publications, Inc., 2005. (ISBN: 1412904099) \$295.

Encyclopedia of Science, Technology and Ethics. Mitcham, Carl. Macmillan Library Reference, 2005. (ISBN: 0028658310) \$450.

The United States at War. Super, John. Salem Press, Inc., 2005. (ISBN: 1587652366) \$104. 

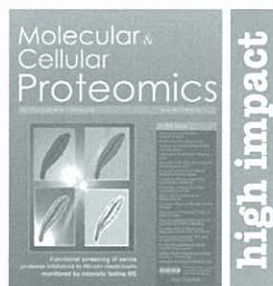


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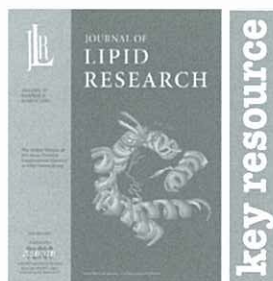


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